

FORMULA VEE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FORMULA VEE LEGENDS



EPHEN “BUTCHEY” BUTCHER

After nearly twenty five years of knowing “Butchey”, two words can sum him up – enthusiasm and persistence. Both these words have never separated themselves at any time throughout his life in Formula Vee, from the moment he appeared on the Formula Vee scene seemingly out of nowhere in the early 1990’s, to the scene of his crowning glory, winning the Formula Vee National Titles in 2012 at Wakefield Park, and beyond.

In the beginning It didn’t take long for Butchey, his red and white Spectre, and his almost permanent smile, to start racing regularly at the front of every Amaroo and Oran Park race meeting. Within a few years, his natural driving talent, and his pioneering work with flow benching, powered him to lap records and FVANSW Club Championships. With his beautiful, and feisty, wife Kerry, by his side for every kilometre, Butchey also started travelling to race circuits around Australia, gaining more invaluable interstate experience, as well as more cockpit hours, than any Formula Vee competitor.

By the mid 1990's, Butchey had earned himself a number of interesting reputations. Builder of powerful engines, tough and uncompromising driver, good club member, hopeless bolt-tightener and gasket sealer, and the most desperate National Titles competitor. Year after year, Butchey chased the elusive National Titles win. Unfortunately, his reputation for bolt tightening or gasket sealing would be continually enhanced. No one will forget how his steering wheel fell off at the 1997 Baskerville Nationals. At least until 2012.

But Butchey's life changed when his mate Gary built a Formula Vee in the late 1990's which was called “Dice”. It didn’t take long for Butchey to imagine himself as a Formula Vee car builder, and Formula Vee team owner. The Dice soon became the Stinger, and Stinger Racing Cars was born. With Butchey promoting Stinger Racing Cars through his web site, Butchey eats and sleeps Formula Vee, though few would know that, to this day, Butchey organises his hectic work life, which includes international trips, entirely around Formula Vee races and hillclimb meetings, whether as a driver, or in supporting one or more of his Stinger clients.

After nearly twenty five years in Formula Vee, Butchey is still one of the great constants in Vee. You know he will be at the next race meeting, either driving his Stinger, or supporting one of his lease drivers. You also know he will be at the next National Titles meeting, wherever it may be in Australia. This alone is something that will keep Formula Vee going years longer.

Beyond all his Formula Vee activities, Butchey is a lovable, happy, and friendly bloke, almost always with his signature smile on his face. Nothing Butchey could do, even after brushes with the scrutineers, or with other drivers on and off the circuit, could ever diminish the respect that everyone who knows him has. But what stands Butchey out more importantly is that he lives his life around an old, but very wise, saying. “Praise in public, but only ever criticise in private”. Butchey lives up to these words every day of his life because you will never hear him say a bad word about anyone.

Actually, there is one more word that sums Butchey up. Chocolate.